

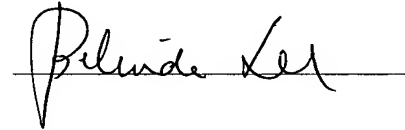
**REMARKS**

The Office Action mailed August 9, 2004, issued a restriction requirement, alleging that the claims of the above-referenced patent application are directed to two distinct inventions. Specifically the Office Action alleges that claims 1-11 (Group I) were directed to a first invention, while claims 12-18 (Group II) were directed to a second distinct invention. In response, Applicants have canceled claims 12-18 without waiver, prejudice or disclaimer, and hereby elect to continue prosecution in this application on claim Group I (claims 1-11).

Respectfully submitted,

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